

## A JOLLY CHRISTMAS.

TO-MORROW THE DAY FOR FUN AND ROUSE AND ALL THAT.

The day we celebrate—Ancient and Modern Observance of the Day in Richmond.

"The good old Christmas" is the Christmas of youth. It exists as much to-day as it did 500 or 1000 years ago. But it is a plant that flourishes best in a soil of tender years; of a time of life when hope and fancy run high; when all is new and dazzling and when the truth of the nursery story and fairy tale are barely questioned. If anything, age has bettered it, for the children of the past knew nothing of the delights that belong to this juvenile generation. True, they had their joys, but great as they were, they would be voted "slow" in 1887.

Our fathers and grandfathers were nearly all country-bred and the pictures printed upon their memories of family gatherings under old moss-covered roofs, of forests sparkling with ice-coats, of fields covered with snow and plentifully marked with the foot-prints of the deer, of the warm glow of the hearth and the sound of merry song and dance; of the brimming eggnog bowl, and of festivities that lasted long into the night by big open fireplaces, where the log crackled and where in the glowing coals all the children of the house could see the merry dance of the flames. Santa Claus came around in those days, as in these, but his pack was light, his store was scant. Some candy, a few "popcorns," a pocket-knife, a book were his gifts. If he had a few illustrations in it—these were the articles he dealt in, and with which he won our ancestors' hearts that never will agree that the Christmas of these times are to be compared with those. For them they are not.

TIME'S FLIGHT.

But it is the people—not the Christmas—that have changed. The home circle may be broken; life is not all that youth painted; disappointments have come; health may be gone, and possibly the mind dwells with more satisfaction in the past than in looking to the future. It is in the hearts of the old that the Christmas of the past lives, and the merriest childish prattle will often unseat a fountain of tears. But it is in the hearts of the old that the Christmas of the past lives, and the merriest childish prattle will often unseat a fountain of tears. But it is in the hearts of the old that the Christmas of the past lives, and the merriest childish prattle will often unseat a fountain of tears.

MANCHESTER'S XMAS GIFT.

A few Little News Items for To-day's Reading.

Mr. P. H. Gary, of Henderson, N. C., is here to spend the Christmas. The Hastings Court adjourned yesterday for the services of the day.

Dele Lodge, Knights of Honor, will meet Monday night and elect officers for the next year.

The usual services, with specially good music, will be held in the city churches to-night.

Manchester Lodge, No. 14, of Masons met last night and conferred degrees on a number of candidates. This lodge anticipates a good time Tuesday night.

There are hundreds of poor here. There are white and black that are in want, and all who have the heart to help the poor will find many a poor man to bestow their bounty.

There is any amount of discussion of the Mayor's proclamation giving the children liberty to "paint the town red" to-morrow.

It would be a dreadful thing if the young men visiting the temptations were to consider themselves entitled to riot through the town as they did some years ago, when they paraded Broad street, assaulting negroes, insulting women, breaking windows, and doing all the mischief that a lawless mob could do.

The fire alarm is the most senseless and cruel noise-producing instrument in the world, but the community—God help the sick—will have to stand them for one day. As for the firecrackers—why, the firemen must be on the alert.

TUESDAY'S "DISPATCH."

As a general thing business will be suspended to-morrow, but the Dispatch men in their character of prompt and veracious chroniclers of current events will be on duty as usual, and will be on duty as usual, and will be on duty as usual.

At one time last night there was light fall of snow, but as some rain followed the ground was soon washed almost clear of its white covering. A genuine snow and cold weather is all that seems needful to make this Christmas complete in all of its appointments.

Last night Broad and Main streets—especially the former—were crowded with shoppers, and nearly all the stores were packed with customers. With rare and an exception, merchants say they have had a fine holiday trade.

A great deal of money has been expended in the purchase of presents, and the streets were quite noisy with firecrackers last night and tin horns were also heard. There appeared to be about the average number of children in the streets, but the children who filled their shoes of an extra hideous hideousness.

It was observable also that there were quite a number of hillyons men on the streets; but there were no great excesses to report.

General thing the children hung up their stockings last night, and it was rumored that Santa Claus would be in town about 4 o'clock this morning. If so, he brought his usual supply, it may be that in time lost looking over their presents some of the children will be late at Sunday school this morning.

Christmas, as a public holiday, is adjourned from to-day until to-morrow, but there was no Santa Claus visit, and if he fails to appear 30,000 Richmond children will wish to see the reason why.

From the work on hand at the express offices and at the post-office yesterday, it is not likely that it is obvious that the employees of those establishments are not having much fun, unless they get it in the knowledge that they are carrying pleasure—i. e., presents—to the homes of many other people. The number of packages received here and sent from here have been unprecedented.

CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR THE POOR AT OLD-MARKET HALL.

The ladies who have the matter of this dinner in hand, met at the Old-Market Hall on Tuesday from 9 to 11 o'clock to receive such articles as may be sent to them.

As they wish to set the first table by 12:30 o'clock on Wednesday, they are especially desirous that all those who have contributions to send in aid of this enterprise shall get them there within the hours named above.

All contributions of clothing, eatables, confectioneries, toys, etc., etc., will be acceptable.

CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR THE CONVICTS.

The convicts at the penitentiary will be given a Christmas dinner to-day. The menu will embrace roast-pig, cake, Almoner pippin, and other nice things to please the palate.

THE PRISONERS' REMINDER.

Meers, Allen & Ginter sent to the city jail yesterday about 100 pounds of confectionery, consisting of various brands of Christmas presents to the prisoners.

Sergeant Smith will give the inmates a good dinner, with something in the way of an appetizer to start on. After that they will be in a proper frame of mind to enjoy a good smoke and thank Meers, Allen & Ginter for their thoughtfulness and kindness.

MEERS, ALLEN & GINTER.

Mr. A. C. Stevenson, cashier of the Western Union Telegraph Company, in his city, was made the happy recipient yesterday morning of a silver-headed cane, the gift of ten of the oldest messengers.

On Friday afternoon Mr. R. D. Chalkley, one of the oldest messengers in the city, was made the happy recipient of a silver-headed cane, the gift of ten of the oldest messengers.

The distribution of prizes at Allen & Ginter's factory was a very interesting sight. All the employees were given something to take home with which to add to the joys of Christmas. The managers in the various departments were the recipients of gold-headed canes, gold pens, etc., as testimonials from the young ladies under their care and direction. This is the usual custom with the noble-hearted proprietors of this great industrial establishment.

The employees of the New York and Southern Telegraph Company presented the popular general superintendent, Major Joseph W. Kates, of that company with a beautiful gold-headed cane yesterday afternoon at their offices. Mr. J. R. Parker presented the cane on behalf of the employees, which Mr. Kates acknowledged in a few well-chosen words.

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## ELECTED TO OFFICE.

A NUMBER OF LODGES "RAISE" THEIR BRETHREN.

New-Year's Gifts in the Form of Honors Bestowed by Civic Organizations.

At a meeting of Virginia Lodge, No. 568, Knights of Honor, held at Concordia Hall, the following officers were elected: H. A. Kaufman, past dictator; D. Witte, dictator; E. Boshue, vice-dictator; Charles J. Schmitt, assistant dictator; William Zwanziger, reporter; I. Lovenstein, financial reporter; S. Binswanger, treasurer; H. G. Miller, chaplain; H. C. Schmitt, guide; Peter Dietz, inside guard; Philip Baur, outside guard; Tractes—J. G. Miller, Christian Unkel, and J. W. Gilliam. Representative to Grand Lodge, A. H. Kaufman; Alternate, M. J. Rosenfelder.

At a regular meeting of Mutual Lodge, No. 291, Knights of Honor, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: M. Harrison, past dictator; Samuel Altire, dictator; Z. O. Lamkin, vice-dictator; George E. Taylor, assistant dictator; Charles A. West, treasurer; C. M. Branch, financial reporter (term); O. E. Wess, secretary; C. C. Camp, chaplain; J. D. Redwood, guide; T. B. Williams, guardian; L. C. Figg, sentinel (term). Tractes—J. H. Redwood, W. C. Camp, and L. C. Figg. Representative to Grand Lodge, J. H. Redwood; Alternate, M. Harrison.

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## THE LIFE AND WRITINGS OF POPE LEO XIII.

BY MR. E. C. JONKINS, AND AN ADDRESS BY RIGHT REVEREND BISHOP KENYON.